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A Masquerade of Unwritten Invitations

Julia Brzhosnevskiy
NSU University School

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A masquerade of unwritten invitations

Julia Brzhosnevskiy

crazy dresses, unnecessary preparations
jaded stares, searching for the unknown
jolly xmas songs ignored by the not-so-jolly passersby with determined faces
mingling of lives
intertwined purposes, searching
imposing each other's space bubbles
rushing, dazed, wondering
an arm crossed with another
one hand in a pocket
casual shirts, pretty outfits
shopping for approval
upset children- overwhelmed by the crowd and limits of their desires
a bickering couple with kind hearts
tired, lugging half a dozen shopping bags
putting on a show-
a masquerade of unwritten invitations
searching- for the unseen
asking for acceptance
a concerned mother, wary of harm to her unborn child
satisfaction with temporary companionship
oblivious in a crowd of others alike
disagreeing- irritated by such minor details
searching for the unknown
wanting to be found

(continued)

prepared to disappear under an insignificant pretense
beepers, cell phones, pagers: technology
more. less. enough.
when is it enough?
clashing sounds of echoing voices,
reverberating music
grays, yellows, browns, blues
pales- casual, secluded, confident
brights- petty attention getters, knowing, vulnerable
gazing, afraid to look, perpetrate a life
staring without seeing, a purpose to be realized
willing, refusing, angered, playful,
sleepy, restless, curious, baffled
listless, powerless
wondering, strolling, running
winking, noticing, smiling
a woman spent at least 40 minutes doing her hair
another merely brushed it and walked out
makeup, hairspray, necklaces, rings-
a way to hide from oneself
nail polish- contributes to the hours spent preparing to be exposed to the world
facades, reality, limbo
strictly maintained hair cuts
gloomy eyes, puppy eyes, wise eyes
sparkling eyes, flirting eyes, sad eyes
happy eyes- smiles of content mothers of newborn babies

(continued)

cold, repressed past hidden behind a face
someone left without the warmth of a comforting word
children strapped to dog chains, tied to a plastic rope to control their movements
couples stealing kisses
young boys trying to imitate their older brothers' "cool" walk
jean shorts, knit sweatshirts, plain tees, cargo pants, plaid shirts, short skirts
bright glowing sneakers, fashionable capris
putting on a show-
a masquerade of unwritten invitations
empty smiles, polite questions, bored salespeople
Hawaiian prints, animal prints that will remain on the dummies that model them
self-conscious, timid, controlling, imposing
silent gentleness, spoken sang-froid
brisk touches of the companion's arm-
a wish to be alone, instead of sharing them with a thousand strangers